LANZ AND COX ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: Mar 31/03

LANZ AND COX ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Lanz and Cox Islands Park is to complete the protection of the biologically significant Scott Islands and to protect a significant example of the Vancouver Island Shelf Ecosection, with both its upland and marine ecosystems. The park contributes approximately 91% to the overall protected area representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Terrestrial* Ecosection, which is a very small ecosection that is almost entirely protected.

The other three islands in the Scott Islands Group, Beresford, Sartine and Triangle have been designated as ecological reserves in order to protect globally important seabird and northern sea lion rookeries. At one time, Lanz and Cox islands had significant populations of breeding seabirds as well; however, the introduction of mink and raccoon in the 1930s effectively eliminated pelagic bird nesting sites from the islands, causing the extirpation of Cassin's and rhinoceros auklets colonies. Populations have started to recover with small isolated colonies of pelagic cormorants and pigeon guillemots, and the islands have suitable habitat for nesting birds and could potentially become important breeding areas once again if the introduced predators are removed.

Other bird species that are present in or may use the park include diving ducks, white-winged scoters, great blue herons, bald eagles, Peale's peregrine falcons, fulmars, shearwaters, and petrals, oystercatchers, and gulls. The marine environment surrounding the islands serves as an important feeding area for the nesting seabirds as it is abundant with groundfish, geoduck, red sea urchin beds and squid spawning. It also serves as habitat for gray whales, sea otters, humpback whales, northern sea lions, and killer whales.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to provide a destination recreation opportunities for experienced kayakers and small boaters. The remoteness and difficult ocean conditions of Lanz and Cox Islands Park limits the recreational role of this park. However, the islands do have some limited tourism potential, given their size and proximity to Vancouver Island. Occasional diving opportunities, nature observation, and whale watching may have potential in the area in calm weather. Safe, high quality opportunities to experience these islands may best be facilitated by a qualified wilderness recreation guide. The islands continue to provide safe, temporary anchorage in adverse weather conditions, with occasional dispersed camping occurring along the beaches.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of ecological and cultural knowledge	➢ Encourage research of seabirds and other ecological values, especially impact of introduced species. ➢ Undertake a cultural inventory in conjunction with other protected areas in the region and with First Nations.
Lack of public awareness of park	➢ Develop and maintain adequate signs and

	information materials to ensure public safety and security, and the protection of the park's natural and cultural values. ➢ In conjunction with First Nations, develop and implement an interpretation program offsite.
Impact of introduced animals (racoon and mink), commercial harvesting, and a potential marine accident on the natural values	➢ Develop a program to eradicate introduced species to encourage seabirds to nest on the islands. ➢ Develop, in conjunction with the appropriate federal and provincial agencies including CWS, DFO, and Canadian Coast Guard, an emergency response plan for the potential consequences of a marine accident. ➢ Work with DFO on ensuring the harvest of federally-managed species do not negatively impact wildlife. ➢ Support efforts to designate a complementary marine protected area under federal jurisdiction for an enhanced level of protection in the offshore area.

Zoning

Wilderness Conservation Zone - covers the entire park to reflect the high conservation values. The objective of the Wilderness Conservation Zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorized activities occur. It is designed for large natural areas where ecological processes are uninfluenced by human activity. Use level is low and facilities and services are not normally provided in this zone.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Lanz and Cox Islands Park is the largest contributor (91.3%) to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Terrestrial* Ecosection (VIS). This ecosection is almost entirely protected (99.7%) by 7 protected areas. Lanz and Cox Islands are part of the Scott Islands Group which has a total of 4,076 hectares of foreshore. The Scott Islands are the 4th largest contributor out of 28 protected areas to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection, which has only 5.4% protected provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Makes a small contribution of 2.1% (making it the 5th largest contributor out of 42 protected areas) to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%. The park is important as it is the largest most northerly example of this biogeoclimatic variant, and it is representative of the extreme of its range.
Special Features	☒	Seabird colonies; fossils occur on the sedimentary shelves on Cox Island
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	*Red-listed* sea otter, northern sea lion, killer whale (both northeast Pacific resident, west coast transient populations). *Blue-listed* killer whale (northeast Pacific offshore population), humpback whale, gray whale. *Blue-listed* plant purple-leaved willowherb and marine algae (*Percursaria dawsonii*). COSEWIC-listed threatened northern abalone. *Blue-listed birds:* great blue heron; Peale's peregrine falcon. *Yellow-listed birds of conservation concern (S4):* Leach's storm petrel; fork-tailed storm petrel; pelagic cormorant; bald eagle; and black oystercatcher.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Seabird research camp, sea lion research

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Difficult access, suitable for advanced kayaking and boating; wildlife viewing opportunities
travel corridor	☐	Not applicable
local recreation	☐	Not applicable

Special Opportunities	☐	Not applicable
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Offsite interpretation of seabirds and other wildlife

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown
Special Feature	☒	Possible village site on Lanz Island

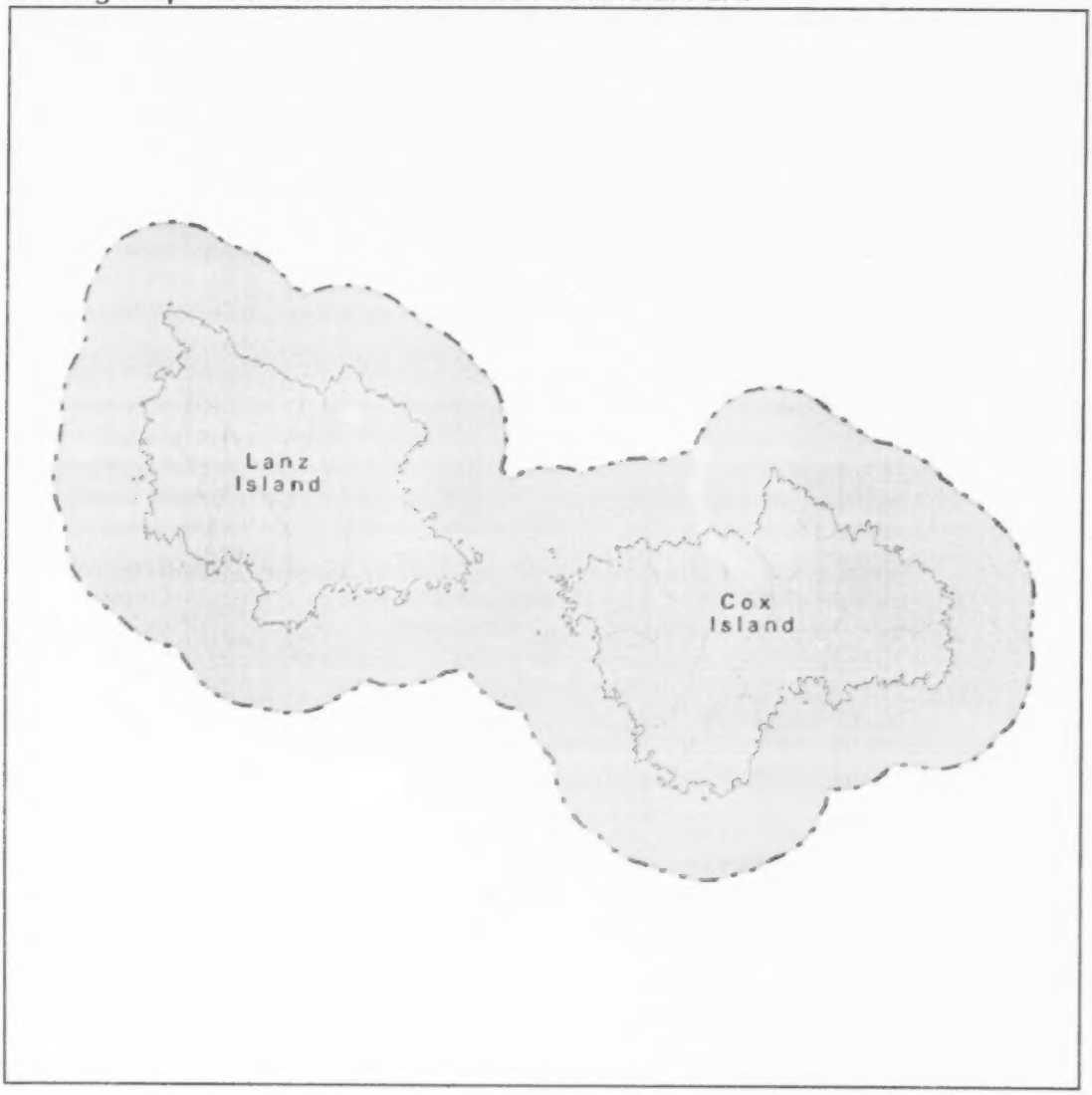
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☒	Important Bird Area (International program that identifies and supports the protection of lands having special bird habitats); potential Marine Protected Area with federal-provincial partnership
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas off the north tip of Vancouver Island, known collectively as the Scott Islands
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☒	Canadian Wildlife Service/ Simon Fraser University
Vulnerability	☒	The primary threats are the introduced animals (mink and racoon), potential oil spills, and possible disturbance from boaters. The islands are also susceptible to possible shipwrecks and the subsequent introduction of rats.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy; designated as a provincial park in 1995 as a result of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan.

Area: 5,556 hectares (1,950 ha upland, 3,606 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: July 12, 1995

Zoning Map - Lanz and Cox Islands Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Area
Datum: NAD83

Wilderness Conservation
Protected Area Boundary

Produced in Apr 2003 for
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This is a visual representation
only and should not be used for
spatial scales.